(BIFR) which is expected to determine and enforce the remedial measures for its revival. The plan includes modernisation to increase its productivity and efficiency, optimisation of product mix in favour of value added products for the export market and implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to rationalise surplus labour.

Difficulties faced by handloom weavers

2721. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of handloom weavers still have a precarious existence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they face a number of difficulties viz., procurement of yarn, fluctuation in yarn prices and marketing of their product; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove these difficulties and also to ameliorate their conditions

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) While the production of cloth in the handloom sector is subject to seasonal variations, there are no reports with Central Government about adverse conditions of the weavers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government of India have taken the following measures to ameliorate the conditions of handloom weavers.:-

(i) As a part of input support scheme Government has set up the National Handloom Development Corporation with the main objective of supplying yarn and other raw materials to the handloom sector. Government also provides loan assistance to Cooperative Spinning Mills in the handloom weavers' sector for increasing the availability of bank yarn

(ii) The spinning mills in the State and Cooperative Sector have been asked not to sway the market forces but exercise restraint in prices.

(iii) In order to improve the marketability of handloom products Government provides Market Development Assistance to the State Handloom Agencies and special rebate on sale of handloom goods in National Handloom Expos.

Closed Mills of NTC

2722. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI":
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many National Textile Corporation mills have been closed down throughout the country (State-wise);

(b) what are the reasons for closure of N.T.C. Mills; and

(c) in what way the employees of those mills have been accommodated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Two mills under NTC, one in Gujarat and the other in Tamilnadu, were not restarted after take over| rationalisation. No activities are underway in 18 mills (1 in Karnataka, 2 in West Bengal, 8 in Gujarat and 7 in U.P.) under NTC, due to shortage of working capital etc. The employees of these mills are being paid idle wages.